REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed August 5, 2005. Attached is a Petition for Extension of Time and the requisite fee.

At the outset, the undersigned wishes to thank Examiner Guill for his time and courtesy during the interview of December 9, 2005. As the Examiner will recall, agreement was reached during the interview that the claims, as amended herewith, are allowable, pending an updated search.

The Office Action objected to the abstract as exceeding the 150 word limit. The amended abstract provided herein is now exactly 150 words in length. The Examiner's attention to detail in this regard is appreciated.

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin in view of Moraru. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

Claim 1, as amended herewith, recites:

> **A method for verifying the design of a disk controller circuit to be incorporated into a targeted hard disk drive system, wherein the targeted hard disk drive system comprises a read/write channel and a head actuator, the method comprising the steps of:**
>
> **...**
>
> **providing a controller environment to support execution and debug of firmware for operating the disk controller circuit;**
> **performing a plurality of disk functions according to a script, wherein performance of at least one of the plurality of disk functions comprises the execution of the firmware, and wherein the plurality of disk functions comprise interaction of the read/write channel model, the electromechanical model, the disk controller design base and the controller environment.**

Claim 1, therefore, positively recites that the provided controller environment supports execution and debug of firmware for operating the disk controller circuit. Moreover, the

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performing step recites that at least one of the plurality of disk functions performed comprises the execution of the firmware. It is respectfully submitted that the applied combination does not teach or suggest these steps, nor the claimed embodiment as a whole. Indeed, the IBM Technical Disclosure Document is wholly silent on the issue of supporting the execution of firmware, through any means. The Moraru et al. secondary reference does not provide any teachings whatsoever regarding firmware or the execution of thereof incident to performing a plurality of disk functions according to a script, as claimed herein.
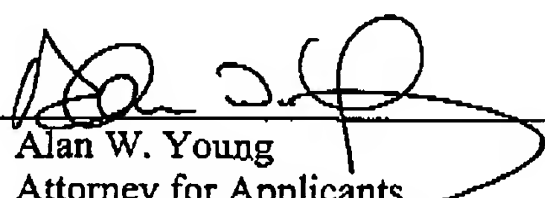
The applied combination of the IBM Technical Disclosure Document and the Moraru et al. secondary reference cannot be said, therefore, to teach or to suggest the claimed embodiment. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections applied to claims 1-3 are, therefore, respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for allowance. If any unresolved issues remain, please contact the undersigned attorney of record at the telephone number indicated below and whatever is necessary to resolve such issues will be done at once.

Respectfully submitted,

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